

Week of March 17, 2003: MaineDOT Flash Facts
Topic: Traffic Control Devices/Intersections

Monday:

Opener:

In Maine, almost a third of all crashes take place at intersections. The number one reason for these crashes is obvious: driver inattention. But the second most common reason may surprise you. More after the break.

Flash Facts:

A third of all crashes in Maine take place at intersections. And the biggest reason is driver inattention. But the second most common reason is drivers who don't yield the right of way. To reduce the number of crashes, the MaineDOT wants to help you remember two rules about the right of way.

- When two drivers approach an intersection at the same time, the driver on the right has the right of way.
- A driver going straight through an intersection has the right of way before a driver turning left.

Be a road model - know the rules of the road.

Wednesday:

Opener:

Most people know that here in Maine we have the "right turn on red" rule. But do you know when a right turn on red is NOT allowed? Find out after the break.

Flash Facts:

Here in Maine, it's a great convenience to be able to turn right on a red light, but it's not legal 100% of the time. And since almost one-third of Maine crashes take place at intersections, the MaineDOT wants to make sure you know the rules. It's NOT legal to turn right on red when:

- A pedestrian or bicyclist is trying to cross in front of you.
- Cars are streaming by on the intersecting roadway.
- You haven't come to a full stop first.
- A sign expressly prohibits right on red.

Be a road model - know when to turn right on red legally.

Friday:**Opener:**

Intersections are dangerous in Maine - almost one-third of vehicle crashes take place where two or more roads intersect. The MaineDOT has some tips to help you avoid these crashes.

- First and foremost - pay attention. The number one reason for these crashes is drivers who just aren't paying attention. There's a lot of opportunity to make mistakes at an intersection - don't let it happen to you.
- Where there's a traffic signal, don't assume the driver with a red light will stop. Check both ways before you enter the intersection, even if you've got the green.
- Don't assume the driver ahead of you will keep moving. Rear-end collisions are very common at intersections.
- When you're waiting to make a left turn, keep your wheels straight until you turn. That way you won't get pushed into oncoming traffic if you're rear-ended.
- Keep an eye on your mirrors so you can act before being struck from behind.

Be a road model: Be careful at intersections.